

529. 664

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
15 April 2004 (15.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/032520 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04N 7/28,**  
7/30, 7/24

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2003/004344

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(22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD,  
SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,  
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
02079154.7 3 October 2002 (03.10.2002) EP

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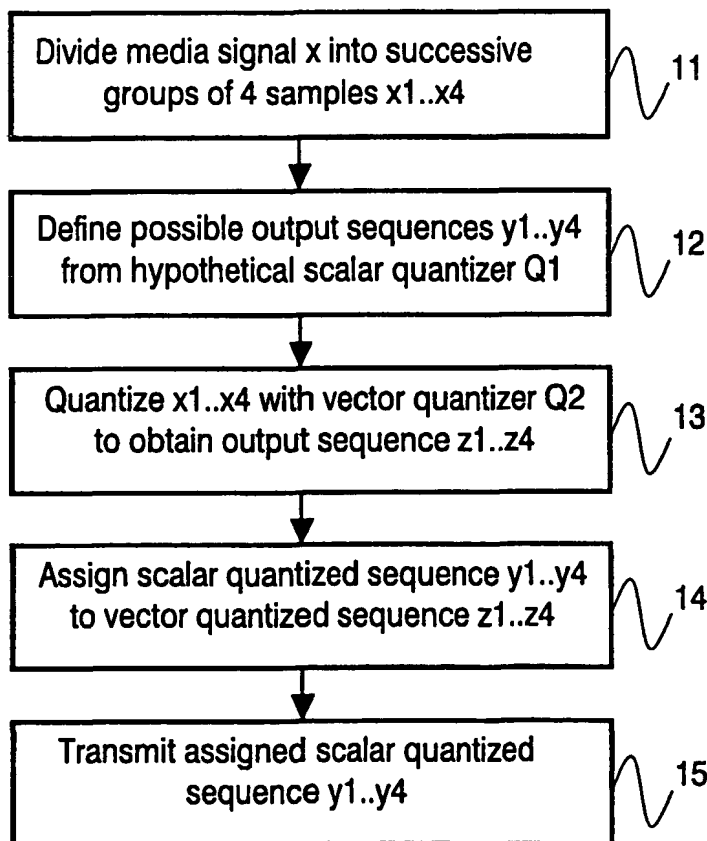
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENCODING AND DECODING A MEDIA SIGNAL



(57) **Abstract:** The invention discloses a method of embedding information for high quality restoration of a media signal (typically an audio-visual signal) in a lower quality version of the signal. To this end, the signal x is encoded using a high quality encoder (Q2). The code sequences z produced by the high quality encoder are mapped into code sequences y that are associated with a hypothetical lower quality encoder (Q1). The latter code sequences y are transmitted. A simple decoder will decode the received sequences y, and thus reproduce a low quality version of the signal. A more sophisticated decoder is arranged to inversely map the received code sequences y into the code sequences z, that were actually produced by the high quality encoder (Q2). The sophisticated decoder will thus reproduce a higher quality version of the same signal.

WO 2004/032520 A1



ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,  
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments*

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*